Issue No. 29

In The News

LearnNow BC Virtual School Receives National Award

Back to School Tips to Help Students Succeed

Education by the Numbers

$2.2-Million Seismic Upgrade for École Des Deux Mondes

New J. Lloyd Crowe Secondary School Going Green

Contact Information

Mailing Address:
PO Box 9045 STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, B.C.
V8W 9E2

Telephone:
250-387-1977

Fax:
250-387-3200

E-mail:
minister.educ@gov.bc.ca

Links

- Media Room
- StrongStart BC
- LearnNow BC
- School Choices
- Healthy Schools
- Literacy
- School District Visits

Message from Minister Shirley Bond

Honourable Shirley Bond, Minister of Education

Back to school is an exciting time. While B.C. students are already among the best in the world, this new school year is an opportunity for us all to reach even higher.

One area of focus is to help students learn to make healthy choices, including healthier foods and regular exercise. Students who eat well and are physically active perform better in school.

Another priority is literacy. Reading helps students succeed in school and in life and it's never too early for children to develop related skills. That's one reason why we're investing in ReadNow BC, the Province's literacy plan, and expanding our network of StrongStart BC centres. These early learning centres help ensure youngsters have the skills they need to learn by the time they start kindergarten.

During my recent school district visits, I saw so many of you working hard on these priorities, as well as other important areas. I'm pleased to say that now the Superintendents of Achievement will be available to support boards of education striving to reach their goals. This is another reason why the new school year marks an exciting opportunity to improve individual student achievement. Welcome back and have a great school year!

B.C. Educators Talk Leadership

Parents, teachers, principals and vice-principals, trustees, directors and superintendents recently gathered in Penticton for the third annual summer leadership conference. The theme was "lead by example" and presenters and participants alike were encouraged to contemplate their role in helping B.C. students achieve their best.

Education Minister Shirley Bond talks to Bill Barisoff, MLA for Penticton-Okanagan Valley, and Jennifer Fenton of Action Schools BC, August 20 at the Penticton Trade and Convention Centre.

HOT TOPIC

Smoking is the leading cause of preventable death in Canada, which is why the Government of British Columbia recently introduced legislation prohibiting tobacco use on both public and independent school

property. The resulting tobacco ban comes into effect for the first day of school. Schools, school grounds and other relevant property will be tobacco free.

The legislation bans the use of any form of tobacco, including cigarettes, cigars, chewing tobacco, and pipe or leaf tobacco. Only First Nations' use of tobacco for ceremonial purposes in a traditional cultural activity approved by the board of education will be exempt.

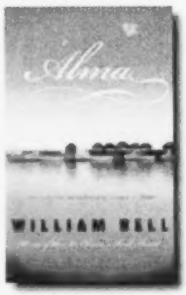
The ban covers schools, school grounds, other buildings used by schools like board of education offices used for educational purposes, and vehicles leased or owned by boards. The ban extends beyond school hours and over school breaks and summer vacations.

While the health authorities' tobacco enforcement officers will monitor compliance and enforce the legislation, district and school administrators are responsible for ensuring their schools abide by the legislation. To obtain more information and order signs at no cost visit the website: www.health.gov.bc.ca/tobacco.

B.C.'s legislated ban of tobacco on school grounds should help teach B.C.'s young people about the dangers of tobacco use and help reduce smoking among the school-aged population.

Reading Corner

Alma escapes into books after her father dies and her mother struggles to ensure they scrape by, but it's Alma's reading and writing skills that win her a job transcribing letters for the town's peculiar newcomer. Their shared love of books forms the foundation for a friendship that will help Alma deal with her loss and reveal the mystery behind her employer. This book is suitable for students in grades 6-7.



Alma
William Bell